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Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General  
Attn: Antitrust Division  
One Ashburton Place, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Reference:    Partners HealthCare Consent Judgment

Massachusetts Attorney General:

I am writing to express my support for South Shore Hospital to join the Partners Health Care System.

My wife and I have been residents of Hingham for more than 30 years and consider South Shore Hospital to be our hospital. Both of us and our four adult children, at one time or another, have been patients of the hospital. For the past four and a half years, I have volunteered in the Emergency Department and serve on the hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council. We have also made several small financial contributions over the past few years.

Our country's healthcare system is at a tipping point with cost spiraling, population health is declining and outcomes are not consistent with cost. The disconnect between primary care, the hospital and outpatient services is an impediment that must be addressed. The lack of accessibility to primary care resulting in the overflow of emergency rooms by patients having no alternative is unacceptable. The lack of an effective focus on population health that addresses mental and behavioral health, chronic disease management and long term care is unacceptable. The lack of standardized and integrated electronic medical records sharing health information among patients, their families, and healthcare providers is a hindrance to providing quality and cost effective care.

A report from the Commonwealth Fund, states that, "Americans spend far more per person on medical care, yet are far less healthy than people in 10 other countries. The system is less fair than systems in other rich countries and it's far less efficient, ranking last of 11 nations." Clearly maintaining current the course is unacceptable.

Our government is mandating changes to address this situation. But these changes require the resources of a multi-faceted organization. The proposed affiliation of South Shore Hospital and Partners HealthCare lays the groundwork and institutional strength to address these issues.

In my various volunteer roles at our hospital, I spend many hours each week trying to represent the voice of our patients. I urge you to listen to those voices and continue to support the proposed affiliation of South Shore Hospital and Partners.

Respectfully submitted,



cc:    Richard Aubut; President and CEO, South Shore Health & Educational Corporation